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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION; ANTI-US FEELING IN ARGENTINA; US-LATIN  
AMERICAN TIES; IRAN; 06/28/07

#### 1. SUMMARY STATEMENT

- "Argentina, one of the countries that most reject the US"  
Hugo Alconada Mon, Washington-based correspondent for  
daily-of-record "La Nacion," comments (06/28) "The fact that George  
[W. Bush](#) is rejected in Argentina is little surprising, although the  
broad dimension of said rejection is amazing. The Pew Center  
revealed that 'Argentina's opinion about the US is worse than that  
of all other countries surveyed outside of the Middle East.'

"... The reasons for this are obvious and also shared by a majority  
of the 47 countries surveyed in the Pew Center's latest and more  
thorough annual study. Reasons are 'the global war on terror' (which  
is only supported by 9 per cent of Argentines), the multiple human  
rights violations denounced in Guantanamo, Abu Ghraib, and other  
centers, and particularly, the invasion and occupation of Iraq.

"Former US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright said 'I believe  
Iraq will enter history as the largest disaster of the US foreign  
policy.'

"The difference between Argentina and the other countries surveyed  
is the scope of rejection of the US - a majority does not agree with  
the US unilateralism, its alleged democratic ideals, its business  
practices, its investment, or the role it plays when time comes to  
deal with, for instance, world 'inequities' or global warming.

"... Argentine mistrust also extends itself to other world leaders  
and their countries, such as China and the Russia of Vladimir Putin.  
Even more, local mistrust also reaches Venezuelan leader Hugo  
Chavez."

- "Washington, increasingly farther away"

Business-financial "BAE" (06/28) carries an opinion piece by Peter  
Hakim, the President of Inter American Dialogue, who writes  
"Disappointment over the US-Latin American relationship is mutual.  
The anti-US feeling has appeared in every Latin American country.  
They resent the Bush administration's blunt unilateralism and  
condemn Washington's contempt of international institutions and  
norms. According to a recent opinion survey among Latin American  
elites, 86 per cent of them disapprove of Washington's handling of  
the conflicts all over the world.

"Only in Cuba and Venezuela is there open hostility towards the US,  
and most Latin American governments still seek to have closer ties  
to the US, through free trade deals, migration, and security  
assistance deals even when many of them no longer consider the US a  
fully reliable partner nor do they want to be its partners. The  
leaders of the region are absolutely aware of the US overwhelming  
political and economic power. And they are pragmatic enough to be  
determined to have good ties with the sole superpower. However, they

see it as a nation that rarely consults others, that reluctantly cedes and reacts badly when other countries criticize its actions or oppose them.

"Many in the region do not find the US current human rights defense very believable...

"In spite of their disagreement and dissatisfaction with the US policy in the region, most Latin American governments want to strengthen their ties to the US. However, the Bush administration has demonstrated neither the determination nor the required ability to implement policies aimed at obtaining the support of the other hemispheric nations."

- "The most challenging crisis"

Marcelo Cantelmi, international editor of leading "Clarín," opines (06/28) "Iran is bleeding through the Islamic revolution's deepest wound - its deficient economic planning... It is a surprising paradox - Iran has the second largest oil reserves in the world and is the fourth world exporter, but its refineries are deficient both due to the negligence of its bureaucracy and the blockade imposed on it. This means that Iran imports almost half of its daily consumption of 73 million liters of oil. It has a two-sided problem - it purchases oil at international prices although it sells it in the domestic market five times cheaper in order to fulfill Ahmadinejad's promise that oil would ever be for the people.

"The rupture of this promise explains the people's violent reaction last December when it turned its back on him in a blunt defeat in municipal elections due to inflation getting out of control. However, it is not only numbers we are talking about. The core of this crisis is the management of a country that is the focus of international pressures due to its huge and conflictive influence in

the Middle East and its nuclear plan, which is sparked by its energy dependence... There are many fronts and perhaps the current one is the most complex and unpredictable one."

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